

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action mailed November 17, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 9-11, and 14 are hereby amended. Claims 4, 12, and 16-20 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 5 and 13 were previously canceled. No claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-11, and 13-15 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

**The Office has provisionally rejected claims 1-4, 6-12, and 14-20 on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3-4, 9-10, and 12-13 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/580,117.** *Office Action* at ¶ 5. Claims 4, 12, and 16-20 are canceled herein. Accordingly, the rejection of those claims is moot. Concerning the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully disagrees, however, Applicant notes that this is a provisional rejection and both applications are still pending, Accordingly, Applicants reserves the right to further address this rejection upon an indication of allowability of this or the copending application.

**The Office objects to an informality in claim 1.** *Office Action* at ¶ 8. While not necessarily agreeing with the Office, Applicant has amended the claim as required by the Office. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claim 1.

**The Office rejects claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0140517 to Schmid (*Schmid*).** *Office Action* at ¶ 9. Claims 4 and 12 are canceled herein. Accordingly, the rejection of those claims is moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the remaining claims.

*Schmid* fails entirely to describe, either expressly or inherently, a “ridge included in the vapor passage ... configured to protrude upward from an inner bottom surface of the horizontal part and configured to collect at least some of the condensed water on the floor of the horizontal portion” as recited in independent claim 1 or “a ridge within the vapor passage configured to protrude a predetermined height upward from a bottom surface of the horizontal part for stopping the condensed water” as recited in independent claim 9.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 9 are patentably distinguishable over *Schmid*. Claims 2-3, 6, and 9-11 depend from independent claims 1 and 9, respectively. It stands to reason that these claims are likewise patentably distinguishable for at least the same reason. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, and 14.

**The Office rejects claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schmid* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,277,210 to Kim (*Kim*). *Office Action* at ¶13.** Claims 4 and 12 are canceled herein. Accordingly, the rejection of those claims is moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the remaining claims.

For at least the reason provided above with respect to the 35 USC 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, and 14, *Schmid* fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claims 1 and 9. *Kim* fails to cure the deficiency of *Schmid*. In fact, *Kim* was only cited for a broad and purported teaching of “a dishwasher having an air outlet which communicates to an outside of the dishwasher ... for discharging hot, humid, and pressurized air to the outside ....” *Office Action* at ¶ 14.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 9 are patentably distinguishable over *Schmid* in view of *Kim*. Claims 2-3, 6, and 9-11 depend from independent claims 1 and 9, respectively. It stands to reason that these claims are likewise patentably distinguishable for at least the same reason. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, and 14.

**The Office rejects claims 7-8 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schmid* in view of *Kim* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,337,500 to Enokizonio (*Enokizonio*). *Office Action* at ¶16.** Claims 16-20 are canceled herein. Accordingly, the rejection of those claims is moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of the remaining claims.

For at least the reason provided above with respect to the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, and 14, *Schmid* in view of *Kim* fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claims 1 and 9, from which dependent claims 7-8 and 15 depend, respectively. *Enokizonio* fails to cure the deficiencies of *Schmid* and *Kim*. In fact,

*Enokizonio* was only apparently cited as a purported proof that “it is well known in the art to provide a dryer and a condenser fan both of which are driven by a single motor ....” *Office Action* at ¶ 19.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 9 are patentably distinguishable over *Schmid* in view of *Kim* and further in view of *Enokizonio*. Claims 7, 8 and 15 depend from independent claims 1 and 9, respectively. It stands to reason that these claims are likewise patentably distinguishable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of claims 7-8 and 15-20.

### **CONCLUSION**

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

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